

SB 21  
February 10, 2015  
Presented by Jim Kropp  
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director in support of Senate Bill 21.

In the 2007 Session, this body passed HB 226 to allow for a charge to be increased to \$5.00 each for replacement licenses sold to individuals who misplaced or forgot their hunting and fishing licenses. Previously, the charge had been \$1.00 per license. The hope was that this, along with allowing for the development of rules to establish procedures and limitations for replacements, would deter people from losing track of licenses, forgetting them at home, or having easy access to replacements as a means of using them illegally. The Legislature directed us then to monitor the situation and if problems arose, to return and present appropriate adjustments. Problems have continued and that is why we are before you today.

Over the years since adoption, the number of replacement licenses has remained high. At the same time, FWP continues to deal with numerous cases where replacements are used as a means to illegally take wildlife. We believe that SB 21 would provide an important deterrent to and appropriate penalty for the illicit use of these tags through the imposition of a mandatory 2 year loss of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges when a person is convicted of the crime. Without a doubt, the loss of privileges is viewed as a major penalty. We believe this tool will aid in deterring the activity while not affecting those who legitimately misplaced or forgot their licenses. As amended, the bill sets a definite timeline for loss of privileges but continues to provide a significant deterrent for these crimes. We urge your support of SB 21, and I will be available for questions.

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